

The Ehlers e-Newsletter

Tuesday, September 2, 2003

Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives

SHUTTLE REPORT IS 'ONLY THE BEGINNING' – Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers issued the following statement in response to the release of the final report of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB). Ehlers, a physicist, is a member of the House Science Committee, which will hold a series of hearings on the Feb. 1 accident that claimed the seven astronauts onboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, the safety procedures and management of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the future of the manned space program.

To read Congressman Ehlers' full statement, please visit our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/082603ShuttleReport.html

IONIA DIAL-A-RIDE TO RECEIVE \$299,038 GRANT – The Ionia Dial-A-Ride program will receive nearly \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Congressman Ehlers announced. The grant, totaling \$299,038, will be used to upgrade the agency's communications equipment, which is used by the transit system as well as emergency services organizations in Ionia County.

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/073003IoniaDialARide.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 AND 2, 2003

On Monday and Tuesday, the House will not be in session.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (5 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.R. 1572 - Winston E. Arnow Federal Building Designation Act** (*Pensacola, FL*)
- 2) **H.R. 1668 - Ed Edmondson United States Courthouse Designation Act** (*Muskogee, OK*)
- 3) **H.Res. XXXX - Congratulating Lance Armstrong**: Congratulates the American bicyclist for winning his fifth consecutive Tour de France race.
- 4) **H.R. 2309 - J. Stephen Horn Post Office Building Designation Act** (*Signal Hill, California*)
- 5) **H.R. 1533 - To amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts**: Amends the federal securities laws to grant church plans the ability to invest their assets in collective trust funds. The legislation thus provides parallel treatment under the securities laws of the assets of church plans to the treatment afforded the assets of governmental plans. It permits church plan assets to be invested in a collective trust fund that also holds

assets of certain trusts which meet the requirements for qualification under section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code and governmental plans.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5, 2003

On Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

H.R. 2989 - Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004: Provides more than \$89.3 billion in total budgetary resources, an increase of nearly \$3.4 billion over the President's request and \$2.7 billion above the FY03 level, for highway, aviation, public transit, AMTRAK and other programs.

H.R. 2765 - District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004: Provides \$466 million to the District of Columbia government for FY 2004, which is \$45 million more than the president's request and \$43 million less than FY 2003 funding.

Historical Tidbits

On Sept. 2 ...

1775 - *Hannah*, the first American war vessel was commissioned by General George Washington.

1789 - The U.S. Treasury Department was established.

1945 - Japan surrendered to the U.S. aboard the *USS Missouri*, ending World War II. The war ended six years and one day after it began.

1992 - The U.S. and Russia agreed to a joint venture to build a space station.

On Sept. 3 ...

1783 - The Revolutionary War between the U.S. and Great Britain ended with the Treaty of Paris.

On Sept. 5 ...

1774 - The first session of the U.S. Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia. The delegates drafted a declaration of rights and grievances, organized the Continental Association, and elected Peyton Randolph as the first president of the Continental Congress.

1939 - The U.S. proclaimed its neutrality in World War II.

1975 - A Secret Service agent foiled an assassination attempt against U.S. President Gerald R. Ford. Lynette A. "Squeaky" Fromme was a follower of Charles Manson, who was incarcerated at the time. 17 days later, Sara Jane Moore attempted to assassinate Ford.

1977 - The U.S. launched *Voyager*.

1984 - The space shuttle *Discovery* landed after its maiden voyage.

(Please do not respond to this e-mail. To send a message to Congressman Ehlers, please visit our website at www.house.gov/ehlers and click on "Write Your Rep.")